

Appl. No. 10/646,538
Amdt. dated January 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 24, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 3, 11, and 14-17 have been amended. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The office action allowed claims 1-10. The office action indicated that claims 17-18 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 17 has been amended into an independent claim to include all of the elements of claim 11 from which it depended. Therefore, claims 17-18 are now allowable.

Amendment to the Specification

An amendment has been made to paragraph [0008] to correct a typographical error.

Rejections of Claims 11-15 and 19

The office action rejected claims 11-15 and 19 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,492,833.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite "a shift register that converts first data bits into parallel data, the shift register comprising at least two serially coupled flip-flops, wherein a data output of the first flip-flop is coupled to a data input of the second flip-flop."

Figure 2 of U.S. Patent 6,492,833 does not show that the data inputs (D) of any of registers 216a-216c are coupled to the data outputs (Q) of registers 216a-216c as serially coupled flip-flops. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 11 and its dependent claims are novel and nonobvious over this cited reference.

CONCLUSION

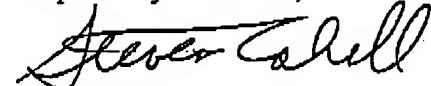
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/646,538
Amdt. dated January 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 24, 2004

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven Cahill
Reg. No. 44,578

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400 Fax: 415-576-0300
SJC:djb
60388415 v1